

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 SS-15 INR-07 INRE-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 H-01 L-03
SSO-00 /057 W
-----042250Z 030259 /72

O R 042225Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3565
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1046

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, SHUM, PINS, ES
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF ANOTHER AMERICAN PRIEST

1. FATHER JOHN MURPHY, BENEDICTINE PRIEST, ASSIGNED TO THE PARISH OF SAN SEBASTIAN, AYUTUXTEPEQUE, RPT AYUTUXTEPEQUE, HAS RECEIVED WORD GOES WANTS HIM OUT OF COUNTRY. THERE IS NO EXPULSION ORDER BUT, APPARENTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECENT GOVERNMENT DETERMINATION TO HAVE CHURCH HIERARCHY TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN, THE GOVERNMENT ASKED THE PAPAL NUNCIO AND ARCHBISHOP TO TALK TO HIM. FATHER MURPHY, OBVIOUSLY SHOOK UP, VISITED ME YESTERDAY SAYING NUNCIO TOLD HIM HE SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE SINCE HE DID NOT WANT HIM (MURPHY) TO GET HURT. I TOLD MURPHY I COULD GIVE HIM LITTLE ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO, CERTAINLY NOT THAT HE BECOME A MARTYR MURPHY STAYED LAST NIGHT WITH EMBASSY FRIENDS OUT OF FEAR OF SLEEPING IN SEMINARY OR RETURNING TO HIS PARISH. AS OF YESTERDAY HE WAS DETERMINED TO LEAVE SATURDAY PARTLY BECAUSE OF FEAR FOR HIS FUTURE SAFETY, BUT ALSO FEELING HIS EFFECTIVENESS WOULD BE GREATLY IMPAIRED IF HE INSISTED ON STAYING WHERE HE WAS NOT WANTED.

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2. DIRGEN OF IMMIGRATION INFORMED CONSULAR OFFICER YESTERDAY THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO EXPULSION ORDER, MURPHY COULD TAKE HIS TIME ABOUT LEAVING ("A WEEK OR SO IF HE NEEDED") BUT AFTER HE LEFT HE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REENTER.
3. THE CHARGES (IF SO THEY COULD BE CALLED), ACCORDING TO WHAT FATHER MURPHY HAD HEARD WERE THAT HE HAD EXHORTED PARISHIONERS TO VOTE FOR UNO (THE OPPOSITION) ON ELECTION DAY.

HE CLAIMS THAT MOST THAT HE DID WAS TO ADVISE THEM AS GOOD CITIZENS TO GET OUT AND VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE THEY THOUGHT BEST. THERE WERE ALSO VAGUE CHARGES OF UTTERING ANTI-GOVERNMENT, PRO-OPPOSITION STATEMENTS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. HE FEARED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GENERAL DEEP CONCERN FOR THE STATUS OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR, WHICH HE CONSIDERED VERY SERIOUS INDEED, MIGHT HAVE "OOZED OUT".

4. NEWLY-APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP CALLED ON ME TODAY TO RETURN MY CALL ON HIM BUT ALSO TO EXPRESS HIS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER CURRENT OF EVENTS AFFECTING CHURCH, ESPECIALLY LATEST SURROUNDING FATHER MURPHY. HE SAID HE WANTED MURPHY TO STAY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS NEEDED, BUT ALSO TO FIGHT THROUGH THE "EXPULSION" ISSUE, ESPECIALLY UNTIL HIS (THE ARCH-BISHOP'S) APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT TO REVERSE THIS POSITION HAD BEEN ANSWERED. I TOLD THE ARCHBISHOP I BELIEVED THAT MURPHY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS OWN STATEMENT, WOULD DO ANYTHING THE ARCHBISHOP WANTED.

5.COMMENT: I BELIEVE FATHER MURPHY MAY STAY A FEW MORE DAYS BUT PROBABLY NOT FOR LONG. UNFORTUNATELY, MURPHY'S DEPARTURE, IF VOLUNTARY, WILL BE JUST THAT AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEREBY AVOID (OR AT LEAST ATTEMPT TO AVOID) ANY CRITICISM OF MALTREATMENT. HOWEVER, MURPHY'S STORY OF CONDITIONS HE HAS OBSERVED HERE, IF HE SHOULD TELL IT (HE WAS INTERVIEWED LAST NIGHT BY ALAN RIDING NEW YORK TIMES, A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT, AND AL ORTIZ OF VOA) CAN DO NOTHING BUT REDOUND TO THE DISCREDIT OF EL SALVADOR. FATHER MURPHY IS SOFT-SPOKEN AND APPARENTLY A VERY MEEK AND HUMBLE PERSON, AND THE GENERAL FEELING AROUND HERE IS THAT ABOVE
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ALL FATHER MURPHY WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING TO CAUSE TROUBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, MISSIONARIES
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Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0857
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
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Image Path:
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Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3205911
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF ANOTHER AMERICAN PRIEST
TAGS: CASC, SHUM, PINS, ES, (MURPHY, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9b4adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009